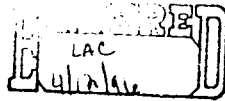


**Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Development
Northstar EIS Project**

Public Scoping Meeting

Barrow

1996



ORIGINAL

BEAUFORT SEA OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT/
NORTHSTAR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Monday, March 25, 1996, 8:00 p.m.

Barrow, Alaska

Alaska Stenotype Reporters

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Anchorage, AK 99501

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1 PARTICIPANTS

2 BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.:

3 Gary Campbell
4 Cindy Bailey

5 Dames & Moore EIS Preparation Team:

6 Gary Hayward
7 Kim Morris
8 Jon Isaacs
9 Steve Braund

10 LEAD AGENCY

11 U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska:

12 Tim Jennings
13 Terry Carpenter

14 COOPERATING AGENCIES

15 North Slope Borough:

16 Tom Lohman

17 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

18 Ted Rockwell

19 U.S. Minerals Management Service:

20 Paul Lowry

21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

22 Lori Quakenbush (not present)

23 U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service:

24 Jeanne Hanson

25 Translator: Elsie Crow

Reported by: Karen Ford

Alaska Stenotype Reporters

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1 Monday, March 25, 1996, Barrow, Alaska, 8:00 p.m.

2

3 TIM JENNINGS: I would like to thank you all for
4 coming to this public meeting on the Beaufort Sea oil and
5 gas and BP Northstar project.

6 We would like to make some introductions so that
7 you will know who we are.

8 I am Tim Jennings with the Corps of Engineers.
9 Also here from the Corps of Engineers is Terry Carpenter.
10 Terry, will you stand up. Terry is the project manager for
11 us on the Northstar project.

12 I would also like to recognize Tom Lohman of the
13 North Slope Borough.

14 Tom, would you like to say a few words about the
15 Borough's relationship with this project?

16 TOM LOHMAN: Certainly.

17 It's good to be back in town. As most of you
18 know, I moved to Anchorage about six months ago. This is
19 my first trip back.

20 I have been meeting with most of these folks
21 several days a week for the last couple of months. This is
22 a little different project than most of us have dealt with
23 in the past. The Borough is at the table with five federal
24 agencies in the preparation of this Environmental Impact
25 Statement. Most of us have had the experience of reviewing

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1 the very thick documents in the past, and in some cases
2 that hasn't been a terribly good experience, and some of
3 our concerns have been over the incorporation of local
4 knowledge and concerns.

5 In this case the Borough is at the table. So I
6 guess I can say though I am the Borough's primary contact
7 on this project, I'm not operating alone. What I do is
8 funnel through the mayor's office and other departments of
9 the Borough, and hopefully throughout the process through a
10 lot of local organizations, and I will be a contact. So at
11 the end of the process, if you do not feel that your
12 concerns and recommendations have been integrated properly
13 in the process, you can look at me and point the finger and
14 hopefully talk to me before we get to that point to see
15 what we can do to make your concerns heard in the document.

16 Within the group we are trying in fact to craft
17 a document that perhaps will look a little different than
18 some of the documents you have seen before. And as sort of
19 an indication of that, I will point to the fact that the
20 contractor that is preparing the EIS has hired on as
21 subcontractors and team leaders some folks who have had
22 long experience in dealing with folks on the North Slope,
23 so they are folks who are familiar with some of the
24 concerns that have been voiced in the last decade, if not
25 longer.

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1 So, again, I am the Borough's contact. We are a
2 cooperating agency in this process, the same as the other
3 cooperating agencies in the process. So I personally, and
4 I think the mayor would say, we hope to make this our EIS
5 as much as anybody else's, so hopefully at the end of the
6 process we'll have a document that will be a meaningful
7 representation of local concerns and recommendations
8 regarding oil development in the Beaufort Sea.

9 So your input is a critical step in getting to
10 that point. I know that the people have been somewhat
11 overloaded, particularly in the last couple of weeks, but
12 certainly in the last couple of years, with projects that
13 are all in some ways connected. We just had a hearing last
14 week on MMS's proposed five-year oil and gas leasing
15 program for '97 to 2002. Well, this is at the other end of
16 the spectrum. We are talking about a development project
17 now and your input at this stage is critical and your input
18 throughout the process is critical. And these other folks
19 will explain how your input will be received at different
20 stages of the process.

21 But I just want to get across the point very
22 early on, as the mayor would if he were here, that we are
23 as an important a player in this process as any of the
24 other agencies, so it is our EIS and not somebody else's.
25 So thank you for your input.

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1 TIM JENNINGS: Thanks, Tom.

2 The Corps of Engineers is the lead federal
3 agency for developing the EIS. Also on the team of
4 cooperating agencies is the Minerals Management Service,
5 and here tonight is Paul Lowry.

6 PAUL LOWRY: Paul Lowry.

7 TIM JENNINGS: The National Marine Fisheries
8 Service is a cooperating agency, Jeanne Hanson.

9 And the Environmental Protection Agency is also
10 here, Ted Rockwell.

11 And Craig really wants to stand up.

12 TOM LOHMAN: Standing in for the U.S. Fish and
13 Wildlife Service, who is not able to be here tonight, Lori
14 Quakenbush, who a lot of us know, is Craig George, ladies
15 and gentlemen.

16 TIM JENNINGS: We also want to recognize Jon
17 Isaacs and Steve Braund. I think these are two folks that
18 you know. They are on the team led by Dames & Moore. And
19 Steve and Jon both will be back over the next couple or
20 three weeks or a month or so to have a follow-up visit and
21 talk to you about concerns relating to BP's Northstar
22 project.

23 Also tonight we have a translator here, Elsie
24 Crow, who will help us with any translation that is needed.
25 We really appreciate your attendance.

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1 Okay. Why are we here tonight for this meeting.

2 I don't know if you have seen this newsletter.

3 I think it came to just about every box holder in Barrow.

4 And you have been hit with a lot of meetings apparently in
5 the last little bit. As Tom mentioned, this is a real live
6 project that is being proposed by BP, called the Northstar
7 project, and we are here to obtain comments from you all
8 concerning this project and Beaufort Sea oil and gas
9 development and hear your concerns about the project or
10 development in general. Also we want to get your ideas on
11 alternatives and options that should be considered during
12 this EIS process.

13 If any of you would like a copy of this
14 newsletter, you didn't get one in your mailbox, we have
15 extra copies around. It looks like they've been
16 distributed, but if you would like some, just raise your
17 hand and we can get some to you.

18 One of the major emphases of this Environmental
19 Impact Statement and permitting process is the
20 incorporation of traditional knowledge. And we think that
21 is very important, as Tom mentioned in his remarks, to hear
22 from you and to get into this document in a very succinct
23 fashion traditional knowledge.

24 So the format for tonight's meeting is first
25 Gary Campbell from BP will present BP's conceptual

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1 information for the Northstar project regarding
2 alternatives for the pipeline routes and the status of the
3 engineering design and any planned studies or work that is
4 up and coming related to the project. And following Gary
5 Campbell's presentation will be Gary Hayward from Dames &
6 Moore, who is our contractor to write the EIS. He will
7 provide a brief overview of the Environmental Impact
8 Statement and the EIS process with a particular emphasis on
9 public input and scoping.

10 And so after these two brief presentations, that
11 is when we want to hear from you in terms of your concerns
12 and issues and options for development.

13 So first we'll start out with a presentation by
14 Gary Campbell with the overview of the project.

15 ELSIE CROW: Since there are no elders here,
16 mainly we will just let you go ahead.

17 GARY CAMPBELL: Well, thank you for showing up
18 tonight and giving us the opportunity to visit with you and
19 explain our project to you, at least as we understand it
20 today. It is an honor to be here, and I welcome questions
21 throughout while I am talking, so no shyness.

22 First of all, I want to express BP's interest in
23 developing Northstar. It is one of those smaller reservoir
24 accumulations that we hope will help to replace pipeline
25 capacity, particularly with the aging facilities at PBU and

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1 the decline of PBU, Endicott and all the rest of the
2 systems.

3 Northstar in particular is why we are here and
4 so I want to talk specifically about Northstar. Northstar
5 will represent the first offshore oil and gas development
6 in the Arctic. It's in state and federal leases and it's
7 also within the North Slope Borough boundary.

8 There are several key issues that I would like
9 to discuss. The first one is structures. We have looked
10 at and are still looking at several different forms of
11 structures, from CIDS, which most of you, I think, are
12 familiar with. Amerada and Shell used CIDS to build some
13 of their exploration and appraisal wells offshore here.
14 And in fact I think CIDS is still parked out here in
15 federal waters. Most of you are familiar with that.

16 A couple of other structures that we looked at
17 are Molikpaq, which is a similar structure to the CIDS, and
18 also a caisson-retained island, which is really just a big
19 ring that they end up filling with gravel.

20 The one that we have looked at most recently and
21 as part of what we call our test program is Seal Island, an
22 expansion of Seal Island. And most of you know where Seal
23 Island is. It's just offshore here out from the Kuparuk
24 River, north of the Kuparuk River, about six miles
25 offshore. Northstar Island is the other island where the

1 exploration and appraisal wells were drilled from. The
2 structures for Northstar sits kind of here. This map
3 doesn't show the state and federal, or the state waters,
4 but most of the Northstar formation is within the state
5 leases. A couple of federal leases are also attached,
6 which will also represent the first federal production on
7 the North Slope.

8 The next key issue is the facility locations,
9 and there are actually two that we are looking at, and I'll
10 just represent them from an onshore perspective and an
11 offshore perspective. Offshore obviously would have to be
12 all new facilities. We are looking closely at Milne Point,
13 Prudhoe Bay, Lisburne, and even Endicott as possible uses
14 of existing infrastructure. A lot will depend on the
15 composition of the crudes and how best to take advantage of
16 existing infrastructure.

17 Consequently the pipeline, which is one of the
18 next key concerns, the route of the pipeline will kind of
19 follow where the existing facilities could be used. For
20 instance, using Seal Island as our test case, we go along
21 the barrier islands, come in at Back Point or at Beechy
22 Point to access the Milne facilities, is one alternative
23 that we are looking at. From Seal Island straight on
24 through to Point Storkersen and into the Prudhoe Bay
25 existing infrastructure. We've got a route that goes

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1 straight across to West Dock where we can tie into existing
2 systems and pipeline routes and leases going into PBU
3 again. We actually have a West Dock option that goes down
4 close to the barrier islands right away which reduces the
5 amount of deep water pipeline trenching that we would have
6 to do, and then on over to West Dock. A couple other
7 alternatives take us right over to Endicott in terms of
8 using the facilities there. A lot of the use of existing
9 facilities will depend on production rates at Northstar as
10 well as existing production rates in the facilities that
11 could host us.

12 In round numbers we are looking at 50,000
13 barrels of oil per day as a target capacity for Northstar
14 production.

15 In terms of construction techniques, and
16 primarily keying in on the pipeline route -- I'm sure
17 that's of most interest to the people here -- we have what
18 we call a test trench program going on right now over at
19 West Dock and Stump Island. We are taking the actual
20 techniques that we intend to use during the pipeline
21 construction, cutting holes in the ice, particularly on the
22 inside of the barrier islands cutting holes in the ice and
23 lifting out the ice cubes and almost conventionally
24 trenching. And the whole idea of the test trench -- and
25 there are two other sections to it as well, one in about

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1 four feet of water, the shallow zone, and another in about
2 10 to 12 feet of water. Actually 12 to 15 feet of water.
3 And that is north of Stump Island. And, again, it's to
4 test the techniques that we believe are best suited for
5 pipeline trenching.

6 Status of engineering. Right now we have
7 effectively completed a lot of conceptual engineering and
8 that is why and how we came up with all the different
9 alternatives that I just mentioned, particularly the --
10 yes.

11 MARK AMES: Excuse me. You have given us the
12 invitation to jump in with a question if we have one.

13 You had a projection there of 50,000 barrels per
14 day offshore on this project. What do you or BP know with
15 regard to what the statistics were on the onshore potential
16 development with regard to the coastal plain?

17 GARY CAMPBELL: Could you identify yourself
18 first so we'll know --

19 MARK AMES: My name is Mark Ames. I'm a
20 Native-born Alaskan and resident of the North Slope
21 Borough.

22 GARY CAMPBELL: Okay. To be perfectly honest, I
23 have no information on the onshore reserves.

24 MARK AMES: All right. Thank you.

25 GARY CAMPBELL: I apologize.

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1 MARK AMES: I apologize for the interruption.

2 GARY CAMPBELL: No. That's what I asked.

3 Any other questions? Now is a good time.

4 In terms of the status of engineering, we have
5 effectively completed the conceptual effort, as I was
6 saying, which helped us identify the multitude of
7 alternatives and which has also allowed us to come up with
8 the test case. The test case, we call it that because it's
9 the one case that we had the most control over the
10 individual pieces, like where the pipeline was, what
11 facilities we could share, et cetera. So we picked the
12 test case based on what we had most control over.

13 What we are doing now is we are continuing on
14 with the test trench which helps us with our pipeline
15 design. We are doing multiple cases on reserve depletion
16 planning. That will give us an idea of how best to
17 construct the facilities if in fact we end up with full
18 process facilities on the offshore case.

19 The other thing that we're doing, although we
20 seem to be either one step ahead or one step behind,
21 whichever way you're looking at it, we're trying to sync
22 with the EIS process. So the scoping meetings, these are
23 critical for our design as well so we can get as many
24 design issues and criteria from these meetings, ideas for
25 alternatives, and they will feed directly into our

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1 preliminary engineering design which is ongoing.

2 Two or three things that I would like to
3 mention, and this is primarily from having met with the
4 village of Nuiqsut last May when we started introducing
5 Northstar originally. There were three things that they
6 asked me to take back to the engineering table, if you
7 will, to make sure they were incorporated into the design.
8 And two of them I am glad to say that are definitely part
9 of the engineering design. One is no gravel bags for the
10 slope protection around the island, assuming that we are
11 using the island, because there was a lot of concern raised
12 about the bags actually getting torn through ice ridging
13 and so on. You are shaking your head. You probably have
14 some experience. We felt that that, while it costs a bit
15 more for the project, the concrete matting, similar to
16 Endicott, was the preferred way to go, so we are not
17 planning to use any bags, fabric bags for gravel filling
18 the slopes. So that is one thing that we are incorporating
19 into the design.

20 Another issue that was raised and voiced by most
21 of the people in Nuiqsut when we were there is noise,
22 reducing noise as much as possible. So we are looking at
23 all of the low noise equipment that is on the market, so
24 whatever equipment does end up offshore here, whether it's
25 an island or a structure, we hope to have it as the lowest

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1 noise type equipment that we can get our hands on.

2 The third item which I think is still open,
3 there was some concern also at Nuiqsut about what color the
4 facilities would be. And while we had a good conversation
5 when I was there, we did not get to a point where we
6 decided on what colors might be best. So I leave that as
7 an open item, and maybe through the question-and-answer
8 period here a little bit later you can voice your opinions
9 on maybe what colors will blend best with the environment
10 and have the least impact with subsistence or travel, et
11 cetera.

12 The last issue that I would like to touch on
13 briefly, because then I'm going to hand it over, and that
14 is permitting. BP has not gone out and applied for any
15 permits yet. That is actually going to come out of the EIS
16 process. And so we are not going to be doing anything
17 until scoping is complete, and the EIS process essentially
18 allows that process to also take place.

19 I am glad to say this is probably one of the
20 first for BP in terms of, as Ted Rockwell allowed me to say
21 at a couple of meetings, BP is a cooperating applicant. So
22 we intend to work together with the agencies and we
23 desperately want to work together with all of the villages.
24 We want to take note of all of your concerns, all the
25 impacts that you perceive, so that when we design this and

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1 build this it's to everybody's benefit and advantage.

2 That's it for me. If there are any questions, I
3 will be glad to answer them now.

4 The displays that are out in the front lobby
5 here, I will be glad after the meeting maybe, if you want
6 to gather around there, to answer whatever questions you
7 may have, or take a look.

8 Thank you.

9 GARY HAYWARD: I'm Gary Hayward from Dames &
10 Moore's Anchorage office, and the project manager for the
11 EIS for this effort.

12 And as previously mentioned, we have assembled a
13 team of experts to assist us with this, including Jon
14 Isaacs and Steve Braund, and are relying heavily upon some
15 input from BP as well as the agencies to get us through
16 this process.

17 We are in the very early stages of the EIS, a
18 stage called public scoping. And this meeting is the first
19 of a series of public scoping meetings, and the purpose of
20 the meeting is to provide you with some initial input and
21 information regarding the Northstar project and oil
22 development in the Beaufort Sea in general. The purpose is
23 also to provide an opportunity for you to raise issues and
24 concerns or voice your comments regarding oil development,
25 including traditional Native knowledge and experience in

1 the area as it relates to subsistence or ice and weather
2 conditions or any other resources.

3 It is also important to remember that this will
4 be the first offshore oil development project in the
5 Beaufort Sea, and as such several aspects of oil
6 development are different than what has gone on in the past
7 as relates to offshore exploration. Some of these
8 different aspects include year-round operations, helicopter
9 and vessel traffic year-round, and some means to transport
10 oil to shore year-round.

11 Although BP has presented what they are
12 proposing as their Northstar project, as Gary was
13 mentioning with their test case, the EIS process requires
14 that a range of possible alternatives be analyzed. Some of
15 these alternatives include different oil production
16 structures from the gravel island scenario and different
17 modes of oil transportation to shore other than buried
18 pipelines.

19 In addition we are going to make every effort to
20 structure this EIS in a different manner than those
21 previously reviewed by you folks. We are going to make
22 every effort to make it more user friendly and more, easier
23 for you to find where your comments have been entered into
24 the document and where they have been addressed. And we
25 are going to have separate sections as they are appropriate

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1 throughout the document that address issues with
2 traditional knowledge and Native experience.

3 In addition to the scoping meetings, we are also
4 planning a series of follow-on meetings over the next few
5 weeks with selected members of the EIS team in this
6 village, in Barrow and Nuiqsut and Kaktovik to help gather
7 additional information on traditional Native knowledge and
8 experience and how that might be incorporated into the EIS
9 and address your issues and your concerns.

10 There will also be a series of follow-up
11 newsletters similar to the one you received recently to
12 keep you up to date as to the status of the project and to
13 inform you of when other public hearings will be held later
14 on as the draft EIS is prepared and is up for formal
15 review.

16 So I encourage you to solicit your comments
17 tonight, either through testimony here or through -- there
18 are comment cards out front that you can -- they are right
19 here -- that you can fill out and mail in. There are
20 telephone numbers. There are other public hearings, there
21 are other meetings, informal meetings later on. We
22 encourage you to have your issues heard.

23 And we thank you very much for being here.

24 TIM JENNINGS: Okay. Thanks to Gary and Gary,
25 both, for the presentation. Gary and Gary. And Craig.

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1 Does anybody have any questions about the
2 project or the process that we are in before we get started
3 on taking comments and testimony?

4 Yes, Mr. Ames?

5 MARK AMES: I would just like to ask, the major
6 corporation that is advancing the Northstar development for
7 the first time in the Beaufort Sea, so that is BP Alaska?
8 And are they working in conjunction with the five entities
9 here to get an Environmental Impact Statement, I realize,
10 but the advancement of the project is being fueled
11 primarily by BP Alaska?

12 TIM JENNINGS: By BP, correct.

13 MARK AMES: I heard you comment on pipelines,
14 Gary. You had various different options on there. Did you
15 have any kind of emergency plans as far as perhaps a broken
16 pipe or shear or shifting of the ice? You mentioned
17 concrete, and I know that there has been concrete put out
18 here by these folks and it doesn't last too terribly long,
19 as well as other Arctic communities. I just kind of
20 wonder. You seem to have upgraded that from bags. Is
21 concrete going to work that much better?

22 GARY CAMPBELL: There are a couple of issues
23 that you've raised. Let me talk a little bit about the
24 pipeline integrity. I think this is one of your key -- and
25 particularly if there is a break what happens, I guess, is

1 the question. And then the second question that I think I
2 heard was in terms of what are we doing to make sure that
3 it's in a safe zone, that we are not going to gouge it with
4 ice or shear breaking or something like that. Is that
5 fair?

6 The first one, in terms of pipeline integrity,
7 we are building it to all applicable industry and BP codes,
8 which in some cases are actually more stringent than
9 industry codes or API codes, ASME codes, et cetera. We are
10 also doing a lot of work on monitoring the pipeline, which
11 is probably the preventive side of any problems, and we are
12 putting a lot of emphasis on that.

13 In particular, what we call geo-pigs, electronic
14 pigs that go through the pipeline, and the best way I can
15 describe them is they measure the longitude, latitude and
16 elevation of the pipeline. So it kind of defines --
17 whatever the shape of that pipeline is when you run the pig
18 through the first time, you pretty much have defined it,
19 almost like the shape of the bottom of a pond. And every
20 time we run that pig we compare it to when it was first
21 installed.

22 If we see that the pipe is shifting in any way
23 or other, for whatever reason, we can measure by the shift,
24 by the movement in the pipe, how much stress is on the pipe
25 and if it's going to be a concern or a problem. So that

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1 monitoring program will be an integral part of the pipeline
2 system.

3 The other thing --

4 MARK AMES: Well, let's say that that pipe
5 busted. What would be the response time for a team to fix
6 the breach in the pipe?

7 GARY CAMPBELL: There are two scenarios that we
8 have been discussing. Shut down immediately is the first
9 answer. The second answer is in the winter we would have
10 to work through the ice, very similar to the way we are
11 going to install and trench to put it in the first time.
12 In the summertime it's a little easier, but unfortunately
13 it's probably the high traffic season. But in the
14 summertime it would be easier. We would go out with almost
15 Gulf of Mexico conventional pipeline equipment to where
16 they have barges, backhoes, especially backhoes that could
17 dig down through, and they go in with collars and sleeves
18 to put over the pipeline in terms of repair. So it would
19 be either through the ice in the winter, similar to the way
20 the pipeline is going to be constructed and installed, or
21 in the summertime from barges where they work kind of over
22 the side.

23 Now, one difference being in the Gulf of Mexico
24 a lot of the pipelines are literally just laid on the
25 seabed, and so in some cases they buoy and lift the

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1 pipeline up to the side of the ship, make the repairs from
2 the side of the ship, and then put them back down. Here we
3 would be making most of the repairs underwater. We don't
4 anticipate that we would have a break, but we are building
5 in the contingencies in the plans, like I described, to
6 access the pipe if there is a break.

7 GARY HAYWARD: I think it's important to point
8 out, too, that where we are in the process right now we
9 don't have all the answers to all your questions. The
10 point where we are in the EIS process is at the very, very
11 beginning. And the project hasn't been developed to the
12 point where it's been put on paper yet as far as the EIS is
13 concerned, and we haven't been able to analyze a lot of the
14 issues that you are talking about tonight, but those will
15 be dealt with in the EIS, so it's important to get your
16 concerns more in the terms of a question now rather than an
17 answer tonight so that they can be addressed in the EIS and
18 followed up at the appropriate times.

19 Just to let you know where we are in the
20 process.

21 TIM JENNINGS: Tom wanted to say something, too.

22 TOM LOHMAN: Again, I am Tom Lohman with the
23 Borough. I wanted to clarify a couple of things real
24 quickly.

25 Again, the Borough and the other agencies

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1 involved are not proponents or opponents of this project at
2 this point. BP, as Gary has said, wants to produce this
3 Northstar Unit. The agencies involved will have permitting
4 decisions to make down the line. The Environmental Impact
5 Statement process is designed to gather up and analyze the
6 best information available in order to help the agencies
7 make their decisions. So I believe, as somebody said
8 earlier, we are all waiting until the end of the process to
9 make our decisions on the different permit authorities that
10 we have.

11 This Gary who spoke and the other folks that he
12 mentioned, Steve Braund, Jon Isaacs and some of the others
13 from Dames & Moore, they are the contractor hired to
14 prepare the EIS, so they are neither a proponent or
15 opponent of the project. They are responsible for creating
16 the document under the direction of the agencies.

17 And as Gary also said, we may not have your
18 answers to the questions but we want to register the
19 concerns that are raised. And one of the things, the way
20 we can think about it conceptually, I guess, is Gary
21 Campbell has talked about what BP is now in their
22 conceptual design phase talking about doing in terms of a
23 pipeline to shore. What we'd like to hear -- if you want
24 to, and I'm not telling you you have to answer these kinds
25 of questions -- if you think a subsea buried pipeline is a

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1 wonderful idea, it would answer a lot of your concerns;
2 it's nuts, it will never work; it will work; have you
3 thought about certain things. If you have any local,
4 particular knowledge or experience that you might bring to
5 the discussion to help them modify their design or trash
6 their design or enhance their design, those are the kinds
7 of things we want locally.

8 And also, getting back to the local knowledge
9 integration issue, it would help very much if when you want
10 to give us some kind of local knowledge to give us maybe
11 just a short little bit of background about who you are and
12 what information and experience you bring to the process.
13 So if, as in past EISS you have seen, when our western
14 science says this and this, however, Native subsistence
15 whalers think something else. It would be nice if we could
16 say, you know, 40 Native subsistence whalers with a
17 combined experience of a thousand years operating out on
18 the ocean tonight think this, it brings a lot more weight
19 to your concerns and your argument. So having that kind of
20 background, if each person that speaks would feel
21 comfortable doing that, it may help give your input some
22 meaning in the whole process.

23 With that I will try to shut up for the rest of
24 the night. Sorry. As you all know, that is difficult for
25 me.

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1 TIM JENNINGS: Okay. We would like to start by
2 taking comments and testimony.

3 Are there any elders present? We would like to
4 take comments from elders first.

5 What we would like you to do is please state
6 your name, and as Tom mentioned, a little bit of background
7 about who you are by way of background information, and
8 then give us your comments and concerns.

9 EDWARD SAGGAN ITTA: I am Edward Saggan Itta. I
10 am the president of the Barrow Whaling Captains
11 Association, and have been associated with our association
12 in the capacity of president for a number of years and a
13 whaling captain for ten. And I would like to just briefly
14 comment here in regards to the EIS process.

15 Firstly, I am real hopeful that this process is
16 going to include our comments that we have made over the
17 years, especially to MMS and in reference to, I think it
18 was 144, the last go-round here. There were some pretty
19 hard feelings about attending these types of meetings and
20 in the end it was all for naught because none of our
21 comments would ever be taken seriously or, if they were,
22 they weren't taken seriously enough.

23 So I am real hopeful that this process -- I
24 commend whoever put this process together. And I commend
25 them because I think this is kind of a partnership way of

1 doing things. That encourages me. But over the years we
2 have had numbers of hearings where faithfully the Barrow
3 Whaling Captains Association have attended and made
4 comments. And, again, I just hope that we are going to be
5 seeing more of our, use of not only our comments but I'm
6 sure some of the traditional knowledge and experience you
7 speak of that has been gathered over the years.

8 My first comment would be in regards to the EIS.
9 A topic I think that needs to be included would be what
10 other areas within the Northstar project have been
11 identified as potential oil producers? I say this because
12 I have a concern that if development does happen, then that
13 opens the door for other connections.

14 Secondly, I would want to know, is there a
15 comparable project anywhere such as what has been proposed
16 here? I know an under-sea pipeline is just one of the
17 items being proposed and I think that is the one we have
18 the most concern about, but I want to know if there are any
19 projects anywhere that even come close to this project, not
20 only being in the Arctic but with the special conditions
21 that are up here.

22 Naturally, whales are an issue with us, and the
23 third item to me would be what is the plan during fall
24 migration of the whale once production starts, because we
25 have over the years dealt with the noise issue up here

1 extensively and I believe that that is an item that would
2 need to be covered on here. And just very generally noise,
3 and what other alternatives are there besides the island
4 that we are talking of here? I mean are you proposing
5 bottom-founded type of structures as an alternative or is
6 this going to be a gravel island and no other alternatives
7 have been looked at?

8 And very naturally with mitigated measures is
9 that over the years on any proposal we have asked for some
10 kind of mitigated measures, what is the plan prior to
11 development should there be blow-out, should the pipeline
12 break, kind of like Mark mentioned? We have always gotten
13 the stock answer that, oh, well, we are not into that yet,
14 we will get into that in permitting. And it seems to
15 always come before the fact. If you are seriously
16 considering something, I think you should seriously
17 consider some oil spill measures, some sort of proven
18 measures.

19 When I worked here with the Borough, to give an
20 example of some offshore exploratory work here and some
21 plans they had here, we kept asking them to try some things
22 out here, and we obviously remember the one with the
23 oranges, where they dumped a whole bunch of oranges and
24 used that as a test case on oil spills.

25 And not to make light of it. I think some

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1 serious answers or some serious mitigated measures need to
2 be looked at in that area because, very seriously, the
3 ocean is what holds our culture together here, and that is
4 the whale. We very naturally have a concern.

5 So just right off the top of my head I would
6 like to comment on those. And I will be picking up one of
7 your comment sheets here to make sure that you have gotten
8 down what I have stated. And, again, I am hopeful that
9 Dames & Moore, and Steve and Tom and you, that this is
10 going to be a different process, and that initially our,
11 just the areas of concern that I have expressed, are going
12 to show up somewhere and that they will be considered.

13 And I thank you.

14 TIM JENNINGS: Thank you, sir, for your
15 comments.

16 Yes, Jon.

17 JON ISAACS: I would like to maybe make some
18 comments to address the really excellent points that Edward
19 brought up.

20 Steve and I will be coming back out to Barrow
21 and will be going back out to Nuiqsut and Kaktovik, and I
22 think this is a real opportunity to take your experience
23 and traditional knowledge and work it into some kind of a
24 statement. It's going to take a lot of thought on our part
25 and working together to see how we do that, because in the

1 past you have made comments and you have been disappointed
2 that they haven't been included in the final EIS when it
3 has come out.

4 And just myself in terms of thinking about this,
5 I think one part of the problem will be to make sure that
6 the description of the environment reflects what you know
7 of the environment. I think a challenge that we will need
8 to work on together is how to come up with those mitigation
9 measures based on your knowledge and your experience, and
10 also how we can take a look at the potential effects that
11 you have based on your experience.

12 EDWARD SAGGAN ITTA: Outside of the scoping
13 meetings, then you are currently going to be coming back in
14 at some scheduled time to get comments?

15 JON ISAACS: Yes. We will sit down and really
16 spend some time, sit down and work with different groups,
17 to talk about these problems and how we include it so it
18 works. This helps us like understand what some of your
19 concerns are so that we will be well prepared when we come
20 back.

21 TIM JENNINGS: Other comments or testimony?

22 CHARLIE OKAKOK: Charlie Okakok from Barrow
23 here.

24 Under these EISs, the ones I have been going
25 through, they have always had -- they have always said

1 they've cooperated with NEPA, National Environmental
2 Protection Agency, which uses the Code of Federal
3 Regulations. They have a Code of Federal Regulations to go
4 by, and then from the way things have been going, they
5 haven't been adhering to the Code of Federal Regulations
6 according to the EISS that we have, MMS has been putting
7 out. And if they would adhere to the Code of Federal
8 Regulations under NEPA, I think that is the process.

9 TIM JENNINGS: Is there a particular part of the
10 process that you feel has not been --

11 CHARLIE OKAKOK: 40-CR under the oil and gas
12 leases offshore. Okay. Also under subsistence they have
13 got a little thing on subsistence also. Part 3, somewhere
14 on this.

15 TIM JENNINGS: If you have time to talk to us at
16 a break or to write out written comments specifically, that
17 could help us understand what part of the process you are
18 concerned about that might not have been followed to your
19 satisfaction, so we can capture that comment and make sure
20 that our process will address that.

21 CHARLIE OKAKOK: I am looking into it over at
22 the office and commenting on it.

23 TIM JENNINGS: Okay.

24 TOM LOHMAN: And, again, we may not have
25 mentioned early on in the process, but this scoping process

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1 is going to be held open, I think, until May 30th, so
2 anytime during that period of time, if you want to contact
3 one of the agency folks -- Terry Carpenter, from the Corps
4 of Engineers, which is the lead agency, you may have seen
5 on the newsletter, Terry's number is here on the back,
6 including an 800 number on the comment cards that are
7 available. So if you want to flush out anything you say
8 tonight, anything you think would be help for us, you have
9 many opportunities between now and then to get us that
10 information.

11 Charlie, you are free to call me and we will
12 talk about it.

13 And we were remiss earlier in thanking Emily
14 Wilson for a lot of good hard and very fast work in some
15 translation on the back of this newsletter.

16 Thanks a lot, Emily.

17 TIM JENNINGS: Other comments, testimony?

18 MARK AMES: Yes, I have some comments. Let me
19 get where I can see here. . Thank you for the comment card.

20 I would like to introduce myself. I am a
21 Native-born Alaskan. I was born in the Interior. I have
22 had several family members work on the pipeline, and have
23 had associations with residents on the North Slope well
24 before I moved here. I have been in Barrow for almost -- I
25 am working on two decades.

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1 I was happy to see the community scoping meeting
2 poster here that was put up in the community.. I know this
3 isn't a pro or a con or for or against, as Tom Lohman said.
4 I share my residency with the people up here, unlike Tom,
5 who has moved to Anchorage.

6 Is that correct, Tom?

7 TOM LOHMAN: Yes, it is, I did move to
8 Anchorage.

9 MARK AMES: I have got some comments but I don't
10 want to have them taken out of context, if I might be
11 permitted just to briefly share my comments and my concerns
12 that I think I share with the majority of Native-born
13 Alaskans, not only up here on the North Slope but
14 throughout the state.

15 I am not surprised whatsoever that BP Alaska has
16 discovered large commercial quantities of reserve oil in
17 the Beaufort Sea two to eight miles offshore of Prudhoe
18 Bay. I would like to express that I am diametrically
19 opposed to BP Exploration (Alaska), their interest and
20 intent to develop off the coast of the North Slope Borough,
21 or otherwise known as Alaska's Election District 37,
22 commercially or otherwise. I want to express my opposition
23 to this Northstar Unit development publicly before the
24 people of the North Slope Borough as a matter of record
25 informing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the North Slope

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1 Borough, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S.
2 Minerals Management Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and those
4 that are pushing vigorously in the boardroom of BP.

5 I appreciate the processes of the Environmental
6 Impact Statement in collecting this information for this
7 Northstar development project.

8 I believe the operation and construction of
9 offshore facilities could and will prove to be detrimental
10 to the coastal environment of the North Slope Borough,
11 Alaska's Election District 37, the coastal region here,
12 which is a great coastal area ecology of the U.S, its
13 shores and marine life to include bowhead whales, walrus,
14 seals, the whole marine column of biology and life.

15 I believe to approve the Beaufort Sea's
16 exploitation in this fashion is not in the best interest of
17 the people of this circumpolar region in its entirety, the
18 coastline of the 49th State of Alaska or of the United
19 States of America in the long or short view.

20 I have been informed that this community scoping
21 meeting is for the purposes of an Environmental Impact
22 Statement, and the identification of topics, issues,
23 alternatives and mitigating circumstances, as the poster
24 clearly states.

25 I think one of the topics is that the pristine

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1 ecological environment, wildlife, habitat, subsistence and
2 traditions of the aboriginal-born Native Alaskan people, and
3 I think that it will be jeopardized by what I view as
4 greedy BP oil barons willing to exploit and to potentially
5 destroy the environment and jeopardize cultural values only
6 Native-born Alaskans hold dear, without regard to their
7 color. I believe that the oil corporate family and the oil
8 baron industries, the industries connected with BP Alaska
9 are gambling with this novice and volatile trespass into
10 our coastal arctic sea environment with the motivation of
11 profit, economic gain, as shortsighted as it is, over the
12 greater interests of this region's people, their state, and
13 the nation's interests.

14 I would like my testimony to clearly reflect
15 that for my fellow Native-born Alaskans, the populations of
16 the state of Alaska and our nation, that I believe this is
17 a blatant attempt to circumvent the logical and reasonable
18 onshore development proposed upon the Arctic plains of ANWR
19 where the people of the state yet own a 90 percent economic
20 revenue provision found within the Alaska Statehood
21 Compact, our covenant with the Union, our Alaska State
22 Constitution, as found in Section 28(A)1, approved by the
23 85th Congress, July 7th, 1958, and again confirmed upon
24 statehood January 3rd, 1959, by President Eisenhower.

25 In short, I believe BP Alaska and the oil

1 industry cronies working within and without the national
2 government want to defraud the people of this region, state
3 and nation by denying the people of the state and nation
4 its right to develop onshore, per Section 28(A)1, would be
5 required by running it onshore -- would be required versus
6 the nonrequirement offshore in the Northstar Unit, which I
7 believe would strip and jeopardize resources for nothing
8 more than ill-gotten gain, a circumvention of this
9 provision that hasn't been forgotten over forty years.

10 And therefore as a citizen of Alaska I cannot
11 consent to this but publicly disagree, as I believe that
12 this is by a calculated design by the oil industry to
13 defraud this state and nation of its national treasures and
14 inheritance bestowed by providence, and until this time
15 held secure for the nation by the Inupiat Eskimos of the
16 North Slope Borough as well as others concerned in
17 conjunction with their natural long-known practices of
18 subsistence in the oceans.

19 The 1980 ANILCA, Alaska National Interest Land
20 Conservation Act laws did not forbid or deny exploration or
21 development within ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife
22 Reserve, or otherwise known as the Arctic Coastal Plain.
23 This was only a recent development brought forth by a
24 liberal leftist veto from outside Alaska's borders using
25 the guise of environmentalism to deny economically the

1 people of Alaska and the entire union for what I view as
2 oil tycoons and interests that are concerned only with
3 profit to the detriment of the ecological, cultural and
4 environmental balance of this sensitive region, the
5 circumpolar region, whereas we have numerous villages in
6 Alaska still living in third-world conditions. And to deny
7 us our 90 percent and develop offshore is to allow the oil
8 company to abscond, and in doing so also jeopardize the
9 environment.

10 I feel like selfish children, the oil industry,
11 rather go and destroy or risk at all odds the circumpolar
12 environment rather than abide by the rules. The Alaska
13 Statehood Act Compact and Constitution validated by the
14 85th U.S. Congress ratification on July 7th, 1958, and upon
15 statehood, again, January 3rd, 1959.

16 Also in my view, what is being disregarded is
17 the U.S. Constitution and the concerns of Native-born
18 Alaskans, which through their 1971 ANCSA private-for-profit
19 corporations, which was signed by President Nixon, have
20 recently filed suit against the federal government, Ada
21 Deer, Secretary of the Interior, because of the same kind
22 of blatant disregard for what, not only what local
23 Alaskans' concerns are but Native-born Alaskans and
24 Alaskans in general, which has basically sidestepped a lot
25 of the due process provisions guaranteed them within the

1 1980 ANILCA Act on these oil-related or resource
2 development questions.

3 I would like to point out that the 1971 ANCSA
4 Act, as I understand it, signed by President Nixon after
5 statehood in 1959, was for pre-1867 aboriginal ancestral
6 birthright claims of the first Native-born Alaskans here,
7 settled 104 years after purchase in 1971, that purchase
8 being in 1867.

9 Therefore, I, as an Alaskan and a citizen,
10 having been born in Alaska and living here in Election
11 District 37, see from this presentation thus far that this
12 is an attempt to drill oil offshore and to sidestep all of
13 the people of Alaska and their government of the 90 percent
14 revenue base due it.

15 And so for the aforementioned reasons I oppose
16 it. And I would like to further state that while ANCSA was
17 what I would characterize the first portion pre-1867
18 birthright claim of the aboriginal-born Native Alaskans,
19 those Alaskans born between 1867 and 1996, in the case of
20 being aboriginal-born Native Alaskans, have a second
21 portion birthright claim to the provisions found within the
22 U.S. Constitution and the Alaska State Constitution, which
23 is Section 28(A)1, the 90 percent revenue base agreed upon.
24 And so I think that that should be closely examined,
25 because the aboriginal-born Native Alaskans that are U.S.

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1 citizens and citizens of Alaska also, as in the earlier
2 claims, regarding the ANCSA claims that were signed in '71,
3 there was a pillar known as the treaty assession of October
4 18th, 1867 --

5 DELBERT REXFORD: Are we going to have to --

6 MARK AMES: -- of October 18th, 1867, that has
7 the U.S. citizenship provision in it. So I think that that
8 needs to be examined.

9 And I would like to thank you all for your time,
10 even though I was rudely interrupted. Thank you very much.

11 TIM JENNINGS: I appreciate your comments.

12 Sir?

13 DELBERT REXFORD: Thank you, Mark.

14 MARK AMES: You're welcome, Delbert.

15 DELBERT REXFORD: For the record, my name is
16 Delbert Rexford. I am Inupiat. I don't claim to be
17 anything other than that. And I don't claim to know
18 constitutional law that our forefathers signed off on. And
19 I am not going to cite any laws that pertain to
20 questionable conduct by the state, the federal government
21 or other agencies.

22 What I am most concerned about is that if and
23 when there is development that occurs, that there is sound
24 Environmental Impact Statements prepared, and that the
25 indigenous peoples, namely the Inupiat people that depend

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1 on the subsistence resources, the whales, the walrus, the
2 seals, the polar bear and other marine mammals, are
3 consulted with. We speak of Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Barrow and
4 other coastal communities that potentially will be impacted
5 in the future. The sea is our garden, and our elders have
6 always stated this.

7 I would like to make it very clear I am speaking
8 as an individual although I do work for the North Slope
9 Borough Maintenance Office. And the comments that I make
10 right now are the comments that I believe that every
11 subsistence hunter believes in. And if I am wrong, then my
12 fellow Inupiat people can correct me.

13 When I was a teenager I saw my father take off
14 to Prudhoe Bay in 1968 and 1969 to work for the oil and gas
15 industry to set up Parsons Camp, the first camp that was
16 ever constructed there. During that era we feared that all
17 of the land animals and mammals, the birds, the waterfowls
18 and the fish would be destroyed by oil and gas industry
19 activity. But today, after all this time, we know that
20 great care is taken by the oil and gas industry. But we
21 also know that there are some risk factors. We take a look
22 at Exxon Valdez and how Hazlewood and his crew landed on
23 Bligh Reef. Simple fact of history. It is these types of
24 things that we as Inupiat people fear as subsistence
25 hunters, just like any other human being that fears the

1 unknown.

2 If you are going to develop, the first thing
3 that you must do is make known the type of technology that
4 you will use that will impact the communities, and most
5 important, to consult with the whaling captains
6 associations and their membership. As Edward Itta stated,
7 it is the backbone of our culture. It is what makes our
8 culture. Neither the oil industry or any other industry
9 that would like to explore, develop and produce whatever
10 minerals are available should jeopardize our cultural way
11 of life. That is first and foremost.

12 Secondly, the land management regulations and
13 coastal zone policies that are to be implemented have to be
14 thoroughly shared with each impacted community. We know
15 from past experiences that BP goes the extra mile to inform
16 the community. We wish other oil industry companies would
17 have the same type of initiative, to sit down with the
18 Inupiat communities, with the regional government, and the
19 impacted communities, on how oil and gas development will
20 occur.

21 In 1977 I circulated a petition strongly
22 opposing offshore oil and gas development because I felt at
23 that time that our whales were surely in jeopardy. My
24 father and others can speak more accurately on how oil and
25 gas, seismic and other activities have impacted our whaling

1 in terms of having to travel great further distances,
2 leading to spoilage of meat because we have to go another
3 30 miles or 40 miles. These are the type of mitigating
4 measures that you must put into consideration for the
5 people of Nuiqsut and for the people of Kaktovik. It is
6 how to prevent and avoid whaler/oil issues before they
7 happen. Those are important, because these are the
8 constituents that have the greatest voice within the North
9 Slope Borough. I am not saying that to undermine the
10 importance of everyone as a whole. Please don't get me
11 wrong.

12 When we look at technology, oil spill
13 preventors, when I looked at the bottom-fastened structure in
14 1987 and spent a night on there, it amazed me as to the
15 type of technology that is available. The assurance that
16 we want as a community is that there will be no oil spill,
17 that there will be no Hazlewood. Simple as that. And you
18 will gain a lot of support from the communities and the
19 residents if you can do that, if you can assure the people
20 of the North Slope that the technology that you use will
21 prevent catastrophes and impacting our subsistence way of
22 life.

23 I apologize to Mr. Ames for interrupting him,
24 but I didn't come here for a lecture on constitutional law.
25 I came here to find out exactly what was going to happen at

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1 Northstar Unit, what kind of technology was going to be
2 used, how you were going to discuss relationships between
3 subsistence users and the resources within that immediate
4 area. I can leave the arguments on constitutional law to
5 attorneys right where it belongs, not here in this public
6 format. But I respect Mr. Ames' views.

7 I have seven children and one grandson. I want
8 them to enjoy the same things that I enjoy today in the
9 future. That is saying a lot. Back in the early 1970s
10 when we advocated that pollution of the environment and the
11 ecology was first and foremost, the movement was strong.
12 And after all the regulations have been put in to mitigate
13 through technology to reduce pollution, we have come a long
14 way.

15 But if I were you, if I was going to go to
16 Nuiqsut and Kaktovik, I would be looking at migration of
17 the whales, the ice dynamics, the residential seals that
18 may be in those areas and, most important, how you are
19 going to get that oil on land. Being straightforward and
20 up-front on technology is good for BP, it's good for the
21 North Slope Borough, it's good for the rest of these,
22 because then we know you speak the truth. It's when we
23 don't know what is coming around the corner that we have
24 the biggest fear. It is scary just to think about a
25 potential oil spill in the Beaufort Sea.

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1 And I think I have said a lot of things in a
2 very short time. I would rather leave the more -- the
3 really critical issues that Edward spoke of and others can
4 speak on past activities. Just like Edward said, don't
5 just let this information fall here at this table. Utilize
6 it. Other EIS statements have provided scoping meetings
7 like this, but the information and the traditional
8 knowledge that was gained for the past 20 years was not
9 used, when it could benefit the oil and gas industry and
10 the subsistence hunters that depend on the living
11 resources, the ocean, on land and through the air.

12 I guess in a nutshell I am saying that if you
13 are going to develop, make sure that your technology works,
14 and assure the indigenous community that there will not be
15 any Exxon. And that is a big statement to make, but that's
16 where we stand.

17 Now I would like to take my hat off and speak as
18 a representative of the mayor's office.

19 The North Slope Borough is listening and working
20 to see how and what types of technology will be introduced
21 and how mitigated measures will be addressed, and most
22 important to protect the subsistence users, the
23 constituents within all impacted communities.

24 We cannot assume that there will be a hundred
25 percent guarantee, but this is what we strive for. We have

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1 people such as Dr. Albert, Craig George, and others. Tom
2 Lohman. I just want to thank you for working for the
3 Borough even though you don't reside here in the North
4 Slope Borough. You have expertise that we need, that we
5 utilize. It is people with expertise that we depend on to
6 give peer review. The North Slope Borough will demand peer
7 review of what is proposed. You know that and I know that.
8 That is first and foremost. And other issues, mitigated
9 issues. You look at Endicott, the bridges, the causeways
10 that were forced on the industry against their will. It
11 was through cooperation that these things were achieved,
12 and we look forward to those types of cooperative working
13 relationships to protect the environment and the living
14 resources we depend on.

15 Like I stated, I cannot make a statement on
16 behalf of the mayor's office either for or against this
17 project, but we are here to listen and learn. And I am
18 sure that I can cite a thousand acts tonight just to
19 impress you, but I'm not going to do that.

20 Thank you.

21 TIM JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Rexford.

22 I would ask all of your indulgence to be a
23 little bit patient. We are here to hear everybody's point
24 of view and we want to make sure that everybody has an
25 opportunity to comment.

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1 Is it felt that people need a break right now or
2 would others like to testify? Okay.

3 BART AHSOGEAK: Hello. My name is Bart
4 Ahsogeak, a whaling captain and Barrow resident.

5 I would like to make a comment on what my father
6 passed on from the first EIS hearings. Because my father,
7 his father, his grandfather, traveled the whole Slope back
8 and forth to the Kotzebue area, back and forth. They were
9 all born and raised in Prudhoe. And there is no -- what
10 you call allotments -- well, that is just a sheet of paper.
11 But we finally got ours out of the Kuparuk Unit.

12 What I want to say is about cleanup, there
13 should be some equipment placed before offshore drilling
14 starts. The reason why I am saying that is my father said
15 that his grandfather saw this whole ocean on fire, and I
16 think this is what we are looking at now. That is why I
17 want to say that the equipment should be in place before
18 this project starts.

19 Thank you.

20 TIM JENNINGS: Thank you.

21 MICHAEL PEDERSON: Good evening. Welcome to
22 Barrow.

23 My name is Michael Pederson, and I am the
24 Natural Resources Specialist for Arctic Slope Native
25 Association, Limited. ASNA is the regional nonprofit

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1 tribal consortium dedicated to and striving for Native
2 self-determination with headquarters in Barrow. ASNA
3 provides services under a Public Law 93-638 contract to the
4 Tribal members in the following communities: Anaktuvuk
5 Pass, Atquasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay and
6 Wainwright.

7 ASNA supports the comments tonight from the
8 North Slope Borough, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission,
9 and the whaling captains in Barrow, Nuiqsut and Kaktovik.
10 We also support the comments that you will hear from Barrow
11 residents, and in the next few days from the residents of
12 Kaktovik and Nuiqsut. These are the communities that will
13 be directly affected by the proposed development of the
14 Northstar Unit. Other future Beaufort Sea development
15 opportunities are uncertain at this time, but these
16 communities will nonetheless be impacted.

17 It is my understanding that this scoping meeting
18 is for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address
19 concerns, alternatives and mitigation measures to be in an
20 Environmental Impact Statement for the entire Beaufort Sea.
21 One very important issue that needs to be discussed in the
22 EIS are the subsistence activities affecting the
23 communities of Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Barrow.

24 The indigenous population in the coastal
25 communities are dependent on subsistence resources,

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1 especially marine mammals such as bearded seals, walrus,
2 polar bears, beluga whales, several species of fish, and
3 the most important subsistence resource of all, the bowhead
4 whale. Several land animals are also an important
5 subsistence resource, such as caribou as well as migratory
6 waterfowl. It is not only from the sea in which we gather
7 our food, but on the land where we hunt caribou, moose,
8 wolves, wolverines, musk-ox and foxes.

9 Inupiat Eskimos do not only utilize these
10 animals for food. We use other portions of the animals as
11 well. Bearded seal skins are used to cover our traditional
12 whaling boats, the umiaks. The sinew from caribou is used
13 to stitch together the ugruk skins for our umiaks. Eskimo
14 drums are made from the membranes of livers from bowhead
15 whales, stomach linings from walrus, and skins from
16 caribou. The skins from caribou are also used for making
17 mukluks. Wolf and wolverine skins are used on our parkas.
18 Local arts and crafts are also made from other parts of the
19 animals not used for food.

20 BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. is considering
21 developing the Northstar Unit, located between two and
22 eight miles offshore near Prudhoe Bay. ANSA understands
23 that six exploration wells have been drilled, and four of
24 those wells hit oil. It appears likely then that
25 development and production will definitely occur. It is

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1 well known that this proposed development will have an
2 impact on the Nuiqsut whalers, who use Cross Island,
3 located just nine miles north of Endicott, as their
4 subsistence whaling camp. In addition, the Corps will have
5 to undertake an extensive EIS process because this would be
6 the first offshore oil and gas development unit in the
7 Arctic. This is very scary. If it will be the first, the
8 impacts of this development are very, very unclear.

9 Seismic noise from this proposed development
10 will impact the migration route of the bowhead whale. The
11 bowhead whales will be forced to swim further north, and
12 most likely whaling crews at Cross Island and in Barrow
13 will probably have to travel further out to sea to scout
14 for bowhead whales. The 3-D seismic work that is being
15 anticipated on 30,000 acres of water in Prudhoe Bay will
16 have an impact to our subsistence whaling activities once
17 the bowhead whale migration begins. Past history reflects
18 that seismic work deters the migration route further out to
19 sea. Seismic work also affects the subsistence bowhead
20 whaling activities of Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Barrow.
21 Impacts to the Nuiqsut whaling captains are severe, since
22 their whaling camp is located on Cross Island, 70 miles
23 northeast of Nuiqsut. And they have been in the middle of
24 oil industry activity for the past several years, and they
25 will continue to be in the middle of oil industry activity

1 well into the future.

2 If development and production occurs, impacts to
3 the bowhead whaling community will be felt over the life of
4 this development, which will create more impacts on our
5 subsistence whaling. Just what those impacts are again are
6 still quite unclear. We know that oil industry activities
7 such as seismic and exploratory drilling rigs affect the
8 bowhead whale. The noise from these activities are quite
9 severe under water, and travel for long distances.

10 ASNA is requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of
11 Engineers add rules to sort out potential conflicts between
12 the oil industry and subsistence hunters. For example, the
13 Minerals Management Service did something to protect the
14 commercial fishing activities in Cook Inlet. MMS added a
15 requirement that oil company activity be restricted if it
16 would result in unreasonable conflicts with fishing. This
17 rule could mean seasonal restrictions on boat activity or
18 placement of oil platforms to avoid interference with
19 subsistence activities, such as bowhead whaling. Something
20 similar to this that was in a previous draft EIS might
21 prove helpful.

22 Subsistence whaling and other subsistence
23 activities. This stipulation is designed to reduce
24 disturbance effects on Native lifestyles and subsistence
25 practices from oil and gas industry activities by requiring

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1 industry to make reasonable efforts to conduct all aspects
2 of their operations in a manner that recognizes Native
3 subsistence requirements and avoids adverse effects on
4 local subsistence harvests and cultural values. It
5 requires industry to conduct all exploration, development,
6 and production activities in a manner that minimizes any
7 potential conflicts with subsistence activities, especially
8 the bowhead whale hunt. This stipulation also requires
9 industry to contact potentially affected Native communities
10 and the AEWC to discuss possible siting and timing
11 conflicts and to assure that exploration, development, and
12 production activities are compatible with subsistence
13 whaling and do not result in interference with other
14 subsistence harvests.

15 ASNA is aware that BP is planning on
16 constructing a five-acre gravel island for its drilling,
17 and use a buried subsea pipeline to carry the crude oil
18 onshore. Has BP considered building a causeway like the
19 one at Endicott? ASNA believes that the subsea pipeline
20 poses more of an environmental risk if an oil spill occurs,
21 with impacts to the marine resources we depend on for
22 subsistence and the habitat used by those resources. Ice
23 can gouge the sea bottom in shallow waters as well as on
24 the surface. At least with a causeway, risks might be
25 reduced, but then we have to consider the impacts a

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1 causeway will have on our subsistence lifestyle. That is a
2 tough question. If impacts to development will be
3 occurring for more than 20 years or so, our best bet is to
4 view assumed impacts and review data from Endicott, as it
5 is probably the closest thing in the Beaufort Sea that
6 resembles an offshore oil production facility. This should
7 be done to alleviate fears on marine mammal resources,
8 especially the bowhead whale, and the several species of
9 fish that are caught by residents in Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and
10 Barrow.

11 Areas all along the Beaufort Sea, such as Camden
12 Bay and Harrison Bay, are considered bowhead whale feeding
13 areas. We know that they feed, and recent scientific
14 research confirms that. The Barrier Islands all along the
15 coast are considered an important resource to the bowhead
16 whale and are used as staging and feeding areas.

17 The impacts to our marine mammal resources is of
18 great concern. An oil spill will not only affect marine
19 mammals, but their habitat, the environment, and other
20 areas where the wind and currents will spread the oil.
21 ASNA still believes that oil development in the Arctic OCS
22 is not in the best interests of our residents due to
23 weather and ice conditions. Sea ice is, and will continue
24 to be the principal environmental factor affecting offshore
25 development in the Arctic. The large lateral forces of sea

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1 ice that can be exerted by moving icebergs are a major
2 concern in the design and operation of offshore oil
3 facilities.

4 ASNA believes, along with a majority of our
5 residents who we serve, that the only other alternative to
6 offshore oil development is onshore oil development. The
7 Beaufort Sea brings us our food. During the fall, we get
8 our bowhead whales, fish return from the sea to rivers all
9 along the coast, and the migration of ducks back to their
10 wintering grounds occurs. All of which we hunt to survive.

11 ASNA understands that this EIS will be funded by
12 BP at the direction of the federal agencies, and Dames &
13 Moore will assist. ASNA hopes that this document does not
14 turn out to be biased in favor of BP. If not, we look
15 forward to working with all agencies involved with
16 objectivity, understanding and respect.

17 How exactly will BP develop its 23 proposed
18 wells? Will this be from the five-acre gravel island? And
19 what exactly is a well for downhole waste disposal?

20 ASNA is requesting that a section be included in
21 the EIS on how important subsistence harvests are for the
22 communities of Kaktovik, Nuiqsut and Barrow, especially
23 harvests of marine mammals. One study with pertinent
24 information that was recently released is "An Investigation
25 of the Sociocultural Consequences of Outer Continental

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1 Shelf Development in Alaska." This is OCS study MMS
2 95-014. Volume V has chapters on Kaktovik and Nuiqsut.
3 This was a three-year study done in cooperation with the
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
5 Subsistence. This study was done to see what effects oil
6 and gas development in the OCS has on Alaskan communities.
7 The study concluded that impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil
8 spill on subsistence uses and social and cultural systems
9 they support exist. This illustrates the potential
10 negative consequences of OCS development near coastal
11 communities.

12 In Kaktovik and Nuiqsut, major findings
13 concluded that residents are concerned about marine
14 resource harvests. Both communities hunt for a large
15 portion of their subsistence harvest from the marine
16 environment, and that environment is in close proximity to
17 former and present federal lease sale areas in the Beaufort
18 Sea.

19 In Kaktovik, residents are concerned about
20 subsistence harvest areas being explored and developed by
21 the oil industry. Concerns on long-term access to hunting
22 areas, and the sustainability of locally harvested
23 resources is unclear.

24 In Nuiqsut, residents responded that lower
25 populations of fish, marine mammals, land animals and birds

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1 will occur due to OCS development. Contamination will
2 occur and the disruption of resource migration patterns are
3 expected.

4 Technical reports indicating the level of
5 subsistence harvests in the affected communities by the NSB
6 Department of Wildlife Management's "Subsistence Harvest
7 Documentation Project" will be a good reference tool in
8 identifying what resources are used the most, the areas
9 where they are hunted and what season that harvest took
10 place.

11 ASNA wants to reference two books that might be
12 helpful in additional discussions on the bowhead whale..

13 One book that may provide additional insight on
14 how important the bowhead whale is in our culture is
15 "Hunting the Largest Animals." Native Whaling in the
16 Western Arctic and Subarctic.

17 Another book that is filled with scientific data
18 on the bowhead whale is "The Bowhead Whale," Special
19 Publication Number 2, by The Society for Marine Mammalogy.

20 In his book "Village Journey," Thomas Berger
21 stated that: Here on the North Slope is the great oil
22 field of Prudhoe Bay. The effects of oil exploration and
23 development have been more pronounced here than anywhere
24 else in this state. The people in the villages of the
25 North Slope are worried about damage to the habitats of

1 their fish and wildlife resources.

2 Although a majority of ASNA comments reflects on
3 the proposed Northstar Unit, please accommodate ASNA in
4 using all these concerns as a basis for determining future
5 development in the Beaufort Sea, and reference these
6 concerns to other possible oil and gas development
7 prospects that will be located offshore.

8 It will also be necessary to protect those
9 archeological sites that are known to exist on the coast
10 near the Northstar Unit. Protection of these sites is
11 necessary. We, the Inupiat Eskimos on the North Slope are
12 still learning about our past history, which is not in
13 written form.

14 Indigenous peoples in the North are heirs to an
15 extensive body of traditional ecological knowledge, based
16 on several generations of collective observation and
17 experience, which can contribute to the western scientific
18 knowledge required to successfully protect, monitor and
19 restore Arctic resources.

20 The traditional ecological knowledge of elders
21 and whaling captains will be a very important aspect of any
22 EIS that is produced. The MMS is just now adding
23 references to traditional ecological knowledge, after many
24 years of ignoring our concerns in draft and final
25 documents.

1 One definition of traditional knowledge can be
2 to protect, strengthen and perpetuate the crucial knowledge
3 of indigenous peoples. This is done through the sharing of
4 that knowledge among people themselves. Traditional
5 knowledge can be described as life values and the wisdom it
6 offers over a lifetime of learning and actual physical
7 experiences by our Inupiat people.

8 One important factor to consider when discussing
9 traditional knowledge is that you will probably have to
10 address the impacts of Western knowledge on our traditional
11 knowledge. Federal government agencies will no doubt be in
12 awe of the results of our knowledge. One good example is
13 that when government scientists first believed the bowhead
14 whale population was at an all-time low in the 1970s, our
15 whaling captains and elders told them that it was not true.
16 There were more bowhead whales than originally thought
17 based on our knowledge, and finally, some scientists, after
18 many years of scientific research and many millions of
19 dollars, agreed and believed in us. Our elders and whaling
20 captains told western scientists things about the bowhead
21 whale that western science could not.

22 In the EIS, consider to defer or delete areas
23 that are of great environmental concern to our residents,
24 or are in areas where subsistence activities are known to
25 occur and are depended on heavily to hunt subsistence

1 foods.

2 ASNA continues to be opposed to offshore oil
3 development, especially in the harsh Arctic environment of
4 the OCS and the great environmental risks associated with
5 offshore development. The Inupiat residents depend heavily
6 on marine resources, and are not quite yet assured of the
7 clean-up technology the oil industry has available, and
8 that it will even work effectively in the Arctic. More
9 efforts should be looked at developing potential onshore
10 resources, with adequate mitigation measures for a
11 continued subsistence lifestyle.

12 If offshore development does occur, it will be
13 necessary to work with our communities in the North Slope
14 Borough to help shape development to safeguard offshore
15 subsistence resources and interests by working together
16 with local, state, federal and oil industry
17 representatives.

18 As stated before, the subsistence uses of the
19 marine mammals that will be impacted by potential offshore
20 development must be protected so that the future use of
21 these subsistence resources will continue for future
22 generations of Inupiat Eskimos, so that we will be able to
23 maintain our traditions based on our culture.

24 Adequate knowledge of our marine mammal
25 resources will be required, such as the bowhead whale,

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1 walrus, seals, fish, polar bears and migratory waterfowl.
2 Detailed biological data will have to be prepared, and the
3 potential impacts on these resources will need to be
4 identified if the federal government is going to allow
5 offshore oil development. Assumptions are not part of the
6 deal, although the best practical knowledge that will be
7 available to us in most cases, in most cases will be
8 assumed.

9 Impact funds should be made available to those
10 communities located in the Beaufort Sea where oil and gas
11 development is being proposed, and oil and gas lease sales
12 will occur. Impact funds can be used to compensate
13 communities for the possible loss of subsistence resources,
14 as well as other potential impacts to the sociocultural and
15 socioeconomic structures of these communities. Most
16 communities on the North Slope survive on a mixed
17 cash/subsistence-based economy. Subsistence is one way of
18 putting food on the table for most residents where job
19 opportunities are few. Impact funds should be made
20 available as soon as possible.

21 Thank you for providing the opportunity to ASNA
22 to offer comments at this scoping meeting.

23 TIM JENNINGS: Well, thank you for taking the
24 extra effort to comment about your comments, and also
25 especially put your comments in writing. We appreciate

1 that.

2 TOM LOHMAN: Anybody else? Are you up for a
3 break?

4 MARK AMES: I would like to make a brief, brief
5 comment.

6 This is Mark Ames again, and I don't want to
7 take up too much of your time, but I would like to make a
8 public comment and have it on record that -- I would direct
9 this to the corporate boardroom of BP Alaska and the Morgan
10 family.

11 And that is that they lobby to open ANWR,
12 contact the people in the National House and Senate to do
13 so, and to perhaps approach the state legislature
14 requesting also a ballot that has been in the wind for an
15 open election of all Alaskans so that they have the
16 opportunity to reduce the lawful Section 28(A)1, 90 percent
17 revenue-based provision, to where this might help augment,
18 with the help of BP, the opening up of ANWR.

19 I would like to point out that infrastructure
20 already exists in the Prudhoe Bay area, and that if an oil
21 spill were to happen or occur, that it would be more
22 isolated and containable and recoverable on onshore
23 location than offshore under the ice, or seeping down to
24 where the walrus are going to eat, where they are going to
25 eat, you know, in the food chain.

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1 And I would just like to ask and point out and
2 have on record that I requested that BP respond to these
3 points of common sense, and that being the Territorial
4 Alaska Constitutional Convention that took place November
5 '55 to February '56 at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks,
6 where this provision was developed, the state law, where it
7 is contained now in the Compact and Constitution, and the
8 federal U.S. constitutional law which is consistent of this
9 49th State Compact, and international law, in, through and
10 with the October 18th, 1867, treaty assession as U.S.
11 citizenship provisions.

12 Thank you.

13 TIM JENNINGS: Thank you.

14 Can I make a point of clarification. Just so
15 that you are aware of the EIS process and what its goal and
16 intent is -- I understand you have some concerns that you
17 have expressed regarding constitutional law, the statehood
18 act, et cetera. You do recognize that in this EIS process
19 we can't address those issues of changing law because we
20 are not a body set out to do that. That is up to the state
21 government or the federal government, the congress. So
22 some of your concerns, I think, would be better guided to
23 people who can actually make those kinds of changes.

24 MARK AMES: I would like it to be pointed out to
25 this community scoping meeting that everything I brought up

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1 with relationship to this project is a part of the
2 environment, whether it be the political environment,
3 economic environment or natural habitat environments. And
4 that is what this is, is an Environmental Impact Statement,
5 because this project is going to have an impact.

6 TIM JENNINGS: Okay. Thank you.

7 MARK AMES: Thank you for listening.

8 TIM JENNINGS: Let's take a ten-minute break and
9 then come back for any other folks who would like to
10 comment.

11 (Recess.)

12 TIM JENNINGS: We are ready to pick up again.

13 I think, Mr. Rexford, you wanted to comment.

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1 you taking the time to come and comment.

2 Craig.

3 CRAIG GEORGE: My name is Craig George and I am
4 a biologist with the Department of Wildlife Management
5 here. And I have been coming to these meetings for a
6 number of years, these scoping meetings.

7 And I just wanted to comment specifically about
8 the disturbance of migrating bowhead whales. We have heard
9 some testimony about that this evening. For years I have
10 heard whalers says that industrial noise displaces bowheads
11 in the fall migration. And interestingly there is little
12 mention of the effects of the hunt. And I always thought,
13 you know, the logic dictates that it should be the other
14 way around. But actually through the nearly 20 years I
15 have lived here I have sort of witnessed precisely what
16 they are describing, and I am more and more convinced that
17 there is a big difference between a short-term strong
18 disturbance of the hunt and a long-term continuous
19 low-level disturbance.

20 And you know that the whalers -- this whale hunt
21 here is at least a thousand years old, some archeologists
22 say considerably longer -- and over those years they have
23 worked out all the nuances of bowhead behavior and have
24 learned that the whales, if they are very quiet during the
25 spring hunt -- and there is a number of taboos about making

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1 noise that still exist, for instance -- but anyway -- and I
2 will mention those in a minute. But that if they are very
3 quiet the whales migrate normally. When there is a strike
4 made there will be a small change in distribution, and I
5 have witnessed that and I realize that we have been kind of
6 conducting a natural experiment, we've spent years out here
7 doing the census. And there is a small change in
8 distribution, then everything goes quiet again and then the
9 whales are distributed back to the way they were.

10 And we have got like a 15-year time series of
11 distribution data out here in the spring. We can show that
12 statistically there hasn't been a change. If anything, the
13 whales, in the last census we did, 93 percent of the
14 animals were within two miles of the lead edge, whereas
15 like in 1985 just -- I think it has to do with the effect
16 of the sea ice concentration personally. But 40 to 50
17 percent of the whales were within this two-mile visual
18 range. So you can see that if there is an effect, an added
19 effect to the hunt, they should be distributed out further;
20 in fact, it's the other way around.

21 Anyway, like I have said, they have learned here
22 that whales won't tolerate short-term high-stress
23 disturbance. And for the most part it's very quiet. Now,
24 I was discussing this with Geoff Carroll and Harry Brower,
25 and we all pretty much agreed on this, this was the case.

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1 At present, like during the height of the hunt in the
2 midpart of the migration when there is a lot of whales
3 going by, snowmachine noise isn't permitted near the lead
4 edge, planes are encouraged not to fly over the lead,
5 helicopter traffic, anything like that. They stop burning
6 at the dump. No outboards are allowed unless they are
7 towing a whale. There is no seal hunting. Duck hunting is
8 not allowed when there is serious hunting going on. No
9 beluga hunting that I know of, for the most part. That is
10 not -- that's discouraged, right? And these are all to
11 keep the disturbance to a minimum. And it's very
12 interesting.

13 Now, the fall migration, pretty much the same
14 things are in effect. If boats go out, they go very
15 slowly, essentially at idle until a whale is seen. It's a
16 different sort of hunt. It's not a passive hunt like in
17 the spring, it's an active hunt. Chase the animal down,
18 you know, strike it and tow it back, and then things get
19 quiet again.

20 However, if there is a continuous sound source,
21 like from drilling activities, seismic exploration -- those
22 air guns are very, very loud. I have heard them myself
23 over microphones when they are at least 30, 40 miles away,
24 and it's very impressive. Ice-breaker noise, ^{PROP}~~pop~~
25 capitation noise, very loud. Apparently the whales sense

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1 this, and I'm sure they can hear it several hours in
2 advance. It's not an overt probably reaction but they just
3 sort of drift out. And this all came to a head the other
4 night, which sort of forced me to think about this seeming
5 disparity, which really isn't. There was an MMS five-year
6 plan where they kind of stated what they seen was the
7 obvious, that hunting is having the greatest effect on this
8 bowhead whale population in the Bering, Chukchi and
9 Beaufort areas. And it was stated in black and white, and
10 then it was felt that the hunt was a great disturbance on
11 the animals.

12 So we did a pretty thorough analysis of that, at
13 least within our department, and think that that may not be
14 the case at all. In fact, it may be just the opposite.
15 Henry Huntington with the ICC, International Circumpolar
16 Conference, is doing, gathering traditional and ecological
17 knowledge about belugas in a lot of the Chukchi villages,
18 down into the Bering. And this is preliminary
19 information -- I saw a draft report and I discussed this
20 with them -- but apparently a lot of the elders feel that
21 this continuous type of disturbance, boat traffic,
22 aircraft, that sort of thing, has moved belugas out of the
23 Kotzebue Sound and out of the Norton Sound. You know,
24 these animals have tolerated a hunt for thousands of years
25 but something recently has changed that distribution, and

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1 they think it's this ongoing continuous stress from noise.

2 Anyway, I guess, you know, how is this
3 applicable to this scoping process. It would be
4 interesting to pursue this further in the EIS, the
5 difference between the short-term and -- the reaction
6 differences of the bowheads to the short-term and
7 continuous disturbance.

8 And obviously every effort has to be made to
9 reduce the noise associated with this project to a minimum.
10 I think we have heard that repeatedly tonight and every
11 other night that I have ever been here, and these guys are
12 generally right.

13 I'll try and write up formally what I have
14 presented here orally so you will have something to cite,
15 whatever.

16 TIM JENNINGS: We would appreciate that, Craig.

17 CRAIG GEORGE: And finally, another thing to
18 consider in the EIS process is a -- and I assume you are
19 going to do this, but there is a lot of data in these
20 aerial surveys and our acoustical and visual surveys that
21 still needs further analysis and still needs synthesizing.
22 And you might -- rather than jump right out there and
23 conduct a whole bunch of new surveys, you might really
24 consider putting a lot of effort into pulling together what
25 is already known and integrating it into the EIS effort.

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1 I thought about it. I don't think there is any
2 major fish issues the way the current project is designed
3 without a causeway. Just offhand it doesn't seem like
4 there should be a whole lot of effort. Ted will probably
5 disagree on that.

6 And just a last note is I've heard a lot about
7 these lateral forces of sea ice here this evening, and I
8 have witnessed that here for many years. There is almost
9 an unbelievable amount of force, and especially the heavy
10 multiyear ice when it gets going a couple of miles. So
11 efforts should be made to understand that fully and design
12 for it.

13 TIM JENNINGS: Thank you, Craig.

14 Anyone else that would like to comment?

15 DR. TOM ALBERT: My name is Tom Albert. I work
16 for the Department of Wildlife Management of the North
17 Slope Borough.

18 And I want to agree with a lot of what has been
19 said here tonight, especially with what Craig just said.

20 When you folks have these meetings over the next
21 couple of nights, I think it's real important that you
22 point out -- even though there has been a lot of written
23 material and Tom Lohman has helped write a lot of notices
24 and stuff, but I think it's real important that you point
25 out up-front that this Environmental Impact Statement is

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1 concerned with the development in the Beaufort Sea and not
2 just the Northstar thing, if I am reading that correctly.

3 Let me just mention a couple of points here.

4 One is, the first point I would like to mention is, is this
5 Environmental Impact Statement really going to be different
6 than the other ones that we have had a chance to read over
7 the last 18 years or so? And from what I can see and the
8 group putting it together, especially since the Borough
9 itself is involved in it, we sure hope that this is going
10 to be a marked improvement in the EIS process.

11 And one of the reasons that this room is so
12 sparsely populated tonight, as I am sure Tom Lohman has
13 already told you, is because people have come here for many
14 years to speak at scoping meetings, at EIS meetings and
15 every other kind of meeting, and in general the results
16 have been real disappointing. And a lot of people are
17 hoping that this EIS is going to really be different, and
18 we are sure hoping that it's going to be good. Not that
19 the other ones have been bad, it's just that they have had
20 enough problems that it has caused a lot of heartburn.

21 And in fact the Sale 144, Beaufort Sea draft
22 Environmental Impact Statement that has been mentioned here
23 a couple of times tonight was bad enough so that the
24 Borough indicated that it was going to do everything, take
25 legal steps against MMS to try to get it fixed. And thank

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1 God that was avoided. And there has been a lot of
2 negotiating back and forth to try to get traditional
3 knowledge and a few other things put in in reasonable
4 amounts. But that is really not the way to do business.
5 But that's what happens sometimes.

6 Anyway, the second thing I wanted to mention is
7 something that a lot of the people have mentioned also, and
8 that is the concerns about noise and water as it affects
9 bowhead whales and thereby it affects the people's hunting
10 of whales. And the noise that people are by far and away
11 the most worried about is seismic marine exploration noise,
12 as you know, and to a lesser extent the noise associated
13 with ships and whatever is going to come out of this
14 production facility. So we are hoping that the facility
15 will be designed in a way to minimize noise that comes out
16 of it. And in the EIS I hope that you have a section in
17 there about noise reduction and how this is going to occur,
18 or ways that it can occur.

19 The third thing I wanted to mention briefly was
20 the worry about oil spills. The people have mentioned that
21 here and of course at every other meeting for the last 15
22 or more years. And I hope that the EIS will be concerned
23 with impacts and with cleanup. And with cleanup, I hope it
24 takes extensive notice of what happened with the real life
25 experiment that was conducted here in the state a few years

1 ago down -- the Exxon Valdez problem. Although it wasn't
2 set out to be an experiment, it turned out to be a really
3 good educational setup. And the problems associated with
4 that, a thousand miles south of where this thing is going
5 to happen -- almost a thousand miles -- needs to be
6 discussed.

7 Regarding the impacts, I hope that what was
8 learned about impacts to marine mammals in the Valdez
9 accident is fully dealt with in this document. And
10 sometimes people say, well, we can't include any of that
11 stuff about seals or any of that stuff about polar bears
12 that was done in Canada because it doesn't pertain to
13 bowhead whales. But these are all mammals and they all
14 breathe the same way, and in all likelihood they are going
15 to react to irritants about the same way. So to
16 deliberately exclude these situations where we have data,
17 namely the Canadian experiment with polar bears, that shows
18 how toxic the oil is, and the seal data from, and the sea
19 otter data from the Exxon Valdez thing, it is not fair to
20 exclude these just because these creatures aren't whales.
21 They are mammals and they reacted rather vigorously to the
22 oil, as you know, and the data are now coming out and they
23 need to be included.

24 The fourth thing I want to mention is to be very
25 careful about the adequacy of technical information.

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1 Something that we have argued with the MMS over the years
2 and are still discussing with them on the Sale 144 EIS --
3 and I have to call Ray Emerson tomorrow, it reminded me --
4 is about the seismic noise, the adequacy of test data
5 associated with seismic studies. If you read the seismic
6 data, one of the reports that is quoted most often done by
7 ~~LWONGBLAD~~ ^{LWONGBLAD}, a friend of mine, extensively quoted in the
8 Sale 144 EIS -- and I suspect quoted extensively in the
9 five-year MMS EIS, although I haven't looked at it yet.
10 One of the things it seldom -- in fact I never saw it
11 mentioned about that study -- is its most obvious
12 limitation, and that is that in the so-called four
13 experiments that were done, either the seismic boat had
14 just started operation, the one at the beginning of the
15 experiment and the other ones reacted -- or in the other
16 three experiments, there was seismic noise in the
17 background even at the beginning of the so-called
18 experiment. I don't even know how someone can call these
19 experiments, although chiseled now in concrete.

20 So I think whoever reviews the information,
21 Dames & Moore or whoever is going to put this thing
22 together, needs to look at something more than the
23 executive summaries and find out what is in that
24 experiment.

25 Another thing that comes up, like in the Sale

1 144 EIS and may well come up in yours, is this thing about
2 are bowhead whales somehow possibly deflected offshore in
3 response to noise, as the hunters have repeatedly and
4 repeatedly and repeatedly said. Their statements are
5 usually discounted out of hand with the following kind of
6 statement; that is, aerial surveys conducted by MMS over
7 the years or by others, such as ^{LJUNGBLAD}~~Youngblood~~, et al, and so
8 on, Moore and so on, show no evidence of such a
9 displacement. A completely true statement, but misleading.
10 How is it misleading? We have asked over and over and over
11 and over again. You say there is no displacement detected
12 by your aerial survey, but how big does a displacement have
13 to be before you can detect it? That never gets in there.
14 My guess is, due to the roughness of the data, they
15 couldn't detect a displacement of anything less than 10 or
16 15 miles. If they can, fine, put it in there.

17 So here is a case, another case where a true
18 statement is made, but for people close to the situation,
19 they don't have complete faith in it. If you want to say
20 that no effect was detected, that is, no displacement was
21 detected by these multimillion-dollar aerial surveys over
22 the years, which have been the good work of good people,
23 you must point out the limitation. What was the limitation
24 of the study? Could this thing actually detect a
25 displacement as something less than 10 or 15 miles? I hope

1 you see what I'm getting at. If you are going to look at
2 the data, then look at the limitations of the data,
3 especially if the data are going to be used as they have
4 been used over and over and over again to substantiate no
5 adverse effect. Okay.

6 The fifth thing. How will this project increase
7 the likelihood of other projects? Is that going to be part
8 of the EIS? Some of the people on the EIS overseeing
9 group, I know some of you already thought of this, but it
10 doesn't take a rocket scientist to look out there and see
11 that there were all these other holes drilled that have
12 noncommercial quantities of oil in them.

13 Now, if someone takes a pipe and sticks it six
14 miles out in the ocean, it's going to be like building a
15 road somewhere. If you build a road, people are going to
16 use it. One of the questions that I would ask, that I hope
17 is in the EIS is, is this pipe going to be built that's
18 going to go out these six miles, is it going to be capable
19 of holding 50,000 barrels a day, the estimated production,
20 or is it going to be able to handle 150,000 barrels of oil
21 a day? My guess is it's going to be able to hold a whole
22 lot of oil, more than 50,000. Because when the pipe is put
23 out there, it's just like extending a road, other things
24 that aren't commercial in themselves may suddenly become
25 commercial. That's why I'm sure, or at least I guess, you

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1 guys have expanded this EIS to include the Beaufort Sea
2 rather than just this action.

3 So I hope that that is something that is going
4 to be in there, because it just would seem to me that
5 barging oil from other sites over to this thing is a
6 reasonable thing to do, and once this thing is out there,
7 it's going to probably allow other zones. And I hope the
8 EIS is going to fully consider that.

9 So anyway, needless to say, people like myself
10 that have been fumbling through these other ones over the
11 years are looking forward to an EIS that we don't have to
12 sit down and view basically as a document of, you know,
13 well, here is a hundred and fifty pages about bowheads, and
14 we had to stumble through looking for the same old
15 problems. And I hope that you do a really good job on
16 this. MMS, to their credit, is revising their 144 EIS
17 extensively in light of Borough and AWC concerns, and
18 trying to, you know, get ahead of the legal situation here.

19 But anyway, we sure wish you guys luck in this
20 process. And I hope that when you go to these two other
21 villages you right up front make clear that this is going
22 to be the concern of the whole Beaufort Sea and that all
23 these different agencies are participating, even though it
24 may have been said many times.

25 Thanks.

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1 TIM JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Albert, for your
2 comments.

3 EARL FINKLER: I am Earl Finkler, the deputy
4 planning director. We are a little thin in the planning
5 department right now, and so I am just going to present a
6 few questions, and we will be working with Tom and -- the
7 Toms and Delbert and everyone later on some more details.

8 This is a real crossroads for an EIS, so I echo
9 what Tom, and earlier Edward and Mike, said about the scope
10 of this, that it be broad-based and really address the
11 issue of offshore oil development as opposed to
12 exploration.

13 And, again, fully incorporate the traditional
14 knowledge, if this is going to be something that is around
15 after 20 years or more. People here have been testifying
16 for 17 years or more, and I don't know if anyone has ever
17 synthesized any of that input. It should be done. But *Methods*
18 there is 17 years of testimony here and all across the
19 North Slope on the effects of what you are looking at, and
20 it would be good to try and take advantage of some of that.

21 Again, I don't know if anyone has even started
22 that process, but now would be the time to look at that and
23 allay some people's fears that all of the testimony that
24 took place in this room for 17 years just went to waste and
25 was never taken seriously.

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1 I was at the meeting last week on the five-year
2 plan of MMS, and they mentioned on 144 there is going to be
3 a special conference in the winter of '97 on integrating
4 traditional knowledge into so-called western scientific
5 knowledge. I don't know if there is any way to hold
6 another one like that for your process or to coordinate
7 that with the five-year program, because all these
8 different efforts go into these meetings, and then down the
9 road there is one conference on this issue, but how are
10 these other efforts going to take advantage of that if that
11 takes place after your work is done?

12 And, again, even if things are improving, and
13 we've always had good relations with BP, since I have been
14 here at least the last year, and Tom Albert mentioned some
15 progress with MMS, but, again, at that meeting last week it
16 came up again time and time again, when the local testimony
17 was referred to it was called opinion, and when the western
18 research was alluded to, that was called fact. So I think
19 there is still some communication and getting a common
20 working language going here to take more advantage of this.

21 And finally just -- this is more anecdotal, I
22 guess -- but I was at the last spill exercise, a couple of
23 us were over there as local representatives, and it was
24 very well staffed. The people knew it was coming. It was
25 optimum conditions, it was in the summer, the seas were

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1 fairly calm, and yet this time it wasn't oranges but it was
2 hula-hoops. The boom broke and the hula-hoops were making
3 their way westward toward Nuiqsut. And it's not only that
4 that caused some concern, but just the communication to the
5 local on-scene representatives. It took quite awhile.
6 There are villages out there, there are local
7 representatives from the Borough and the villages. So when
8 you assess mitigating spills, you can not only look at the
9 technology, but just the communication and the involvement
10 of the local people.

11 Thank you.

12 TIM JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Finkler.

13 Is there anyone else who has not yet testified
14 who would like to make comments?

15 Well, we very much appreciate you all taking
16 your time to come down here tonight and give us your
17 comments. We know that there are other activities that can
18 draw your attention away from a meeting like this, and we
19 very much appreciate your time and effort in coming and
20 sharing your concerns with us.

21 I will mention one more time, you'll be seeing
22 more of these newsletters in the future to keep you abreast
23 of the project and the process.

24 Once again, if you would like to provide written
25 comments, we have these handy-dandy little postcards

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1 already addressed to Terry. We also have an 800 toll-free
2 telephone number that you can use to call the Corps and
3 talk with Terry to get additional information about the
4 process and the project.

5 You can also look forward to Jon Isaacs and
6 Steve Braund coming back as follow-up to this meeting to
7 continue some of the work that we began here tonight.

8 We are just in the beginning of this process,
9 and we look forward to working with you in the future to
10 incorporate the traditional knowledge and make this EIS
11 truly a different EIS that meets the goals of everyone
12 involved.

13 Thank you again for coming.

14 (Proceedings concluded at 10:25 p.m.)

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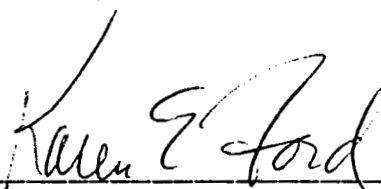
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
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1996.


KAREN E. FORD, RPR
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Alaska



My Commission Expires July 13, 1999.